



RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Summer 2017

Upcoming Events

Sept. 2nd at 5PM Raffle Party (Drawing at 6PM) at the Village Inn

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President's Letter—by Bob Lee

Once again I am late on getting out a newsletter. It has been a busy summer for me as well as for RALALA. Let me start off by listing some of the milestones that have been achieved this summer.

First, we are now at the highest membership level we have been at since I have been on the board of RALALA. By my unverified count we are now at 222 members, and there are still some families who have not yet paid their dues for this year, but have been perennial members. I think we

have a chance of hitting 250 members by the end of the year. Unfortunately that means that there are still about 675 free riders who are letting the rest of us carry the load—more on that below.

Second, as you will see as you read through this newsletter, we have more advertisers now than we have ever had before. If this trend keeps up, I am going to have to add pages so as to have room to include some articles! Please support these local businesses!

As you all probably know, we treated South Roosevelt again for milfoil. This time we treated 11.2 acres in July with tricopyr. This treatment occurred much earlier in the season so we are hopeful that we will not see as much fragmentation and spreading as we did prior to the 2016 treatment, but it is virtually certain that we will need to continue to treat annually in order to keep this infestation under control—at least until they come up with a better treatment method.

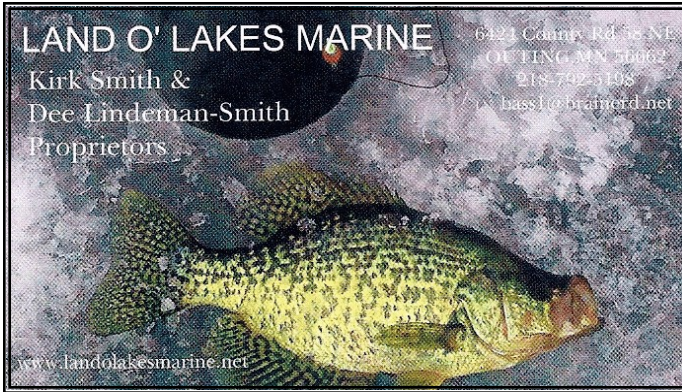
Cont'd on p. 9

What does RALALA do—other than treat milfoil? By Bob Lee

I know we have been devoting a lot of money and attention to Roosevelt's milfoil infestation for the last couple of years, but it is important to remember that this is only a portion of our mission of protecting our lakes for ourselves and future generations. People have been asking me lately about specifically what else we do with your dues and other contributions. This list (originally developed for a brochure that we distribute to potential members) is my response:

- Holds a general membership meeting annually including educational programs and giving members an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members.
- Has a designated representative on the Crooked Lake Township Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.
- Works with Cass County to provide trained inspectors at the public accesses on Roosevelt and Lawrence Lakes. Inspectors check for invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and Zebra Mussels on weekends and holidays from opening fishing through the middle of September.
- Has installed and maintains I-LIDs at the Roosevelt and Lawrence Lake public accesses. I-LIDs are devices that monitor all launches and retrievals of boats to and from the lake using video cameras that transmit via cell phone modem to a web-
- Creates and distributes to our members three newsletters each year. These newsletters contain articles that both educate our members about lake related issues and keep them abreast of information related to our lakes.
- Maintains an informative website with lots of links to items of interest to lakeshore owners (www.ralalalakes.org).
- Provides a sense of community for lakeshore owners.

Cont'd on p.2



What does RALALA do—cont'd from p.1

- site for later viewing by volunteer monitors. The I-LIDs also deliver an audible reminder to inspect your boat for the presence of AIS.
- Supports our member property owners in communicating with state and local government on issues connected with preserving and protecting our lakes and provides testimony or commentary on such issues where appropriate.
- Works with the DNR with respect to fish stocking programs and other initiatives to maximize the fishing potential of our lakes, and provides the DNR with an avenue for communicating with our members about what they are doing with respect to our lakes.
- Assists the Cass County Sheriff's Department by providing volunteers to participate in the Water Patrol Program and hosting boat safety training classes for youths.
- Assists the Cass County Sheriff's Department by annually placing and removing, and periodically performing maintenance on navigational buoys on our lakes.
- Sends updates and information via e-mail to those members who opt in to this service.
- Provides volunteers to keep records of lake levels and measure water clarity in cooperation with the MPCA.
- Takes samples and runs multiple tests of water quality in multiple locations in all RALALA area lakes.
- Prepares and distributes educational literature on fighting the spread of AIS.
- Tests or helps test for the presence of various invasive species on our lakes.
- Builds and locally distributes ZMEWs (zebra mussel early warning systems) for deployment on docks in our lakes.
- Has helped fund the new Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area and will continue to fund other critical lakeshore acquisition projects on our lakes to help preserve water quality, spawning beds, etc.
- Has and will continue to make financial contributions to other nearby lake associations to help them fight AIS infections.
- Makes financial contributions to community organizations like:
 - First Responders in both Emily and Outing
 - Outing Chamber of Commerce Firework Displays
 - Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Department
 - Emily Volunteer Fire Department
- Water Patrol
 - Is a dues paying member of organizations fighting to protect our lakes in Minnesota including:
 - Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL)
 - Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)
 - Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA)
 - Crow Wing Co. Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA)
 - Outing Chamber of Commerce
 - Provides a place to go to get your questions answered about the lakes and lakeshore.
 - Offers a communication link between local governments (both municipal and county) to communicate with our members about issues of concern to lakeshore owners—even those who are not residents of Emily or Crooked Lake Township.

I probably have overlooked a few things, but this list should help you all realize that RALALA is doing many things that many of us overlook or take for granted. Your contributions and volunteer time make it all possible. Thanks!

Leveraging Our Lake Protection Efforts—by Darril Wegscheid and Mary Kowalski

Our lake association works with numerous other groups both locally and at the county and watershed level. This overview is meant to introduce our membership to these local and regional efforts.

First, on a local level we participate along with Washburn Lake Association in the Crooked Lake Township AIS Committee; and in Emily along with lake associations for Emily, Mary and Ruth Lakes in Emily Waters, a committee with a somewhat broader mission than its CLT counterpart. We are also a member of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) because we actively cooperate with WAPOA in their water quality sampling and testing programs that they offer to all lakes in the Pine River Watershed.

Second, we participate in two county level coalitions of lake associations or COLAs, because North Roosevelt, Leavitt and Lawrence are Cass County lakes while most of Smokey Hollow and South Roosevelt are in Crow Wing

County. In Cass County the COLA is the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL). In Crow Wing County the COLA is the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Association (LARA).

ACCL, as a Cass County association, is integral to being informed about current happenings in and around lakes in Cass County. Its website is located at <http://www.acclakes.org/>. On the last Friday of each month from May through September, ACCL members meet at the Hackensack senior center. A brief business meeting is held and then there is a featured speaker or speakers. A current topic is covered by the speaker each of whom is an expert in his or her field. Each member organization can benefit by having members attend and subsequently share with their own lake association the findings or recommended actions relevant to the well-being of their lakes. If you are interested in attending a meeting or have a question, contact Mary Kowalski at mjkowalski@earthlink.net.

LARA, the Crow Wing County counterpart of ACCL, also has a website at <http://crowwinglara.org/>. Although it does not have member meetings, LARA does publish informative newsletters and other articles and videos on its website. Check them out!

In addition to these organizations we also participate in the Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA). Did you know that we are in the Daggett Brook sub-basin of the Pine River Watershed which itself is a sub-basin of the Mississippi Basin? The PRWA is focused on specific land management projects and activities that will improve water quality while meeting needs for economic development. You may have heard of their "Cows for Clean Water" effort to see if they can market beef raised locally in a way that is friendly to our lakes and streams. They also are actively restoring multiple creeks and streams in the area and are working with many lake associations on shoreland management and restoration.

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It's Time to Stop Zebra Mussels — by Gary Langer and Jan Skjolsvik

Early detection of zebra mussels is imperative for treating any infected area of water. Private property owners are encouraged to install a simple device called a Zebra Mussel Early Warning System or ZMEW for short. It hangs from a dock with a chain or rope. Veligers (baby zebra mussels) attach themselves to a simple PVC pipe and periodic checks can reveal early infections so treatment can be started. While you can't see veligers, once they attach to a ZMEWS the surface of the pipe will feel rough, like fine sand paper. Zebra mussels prefer the inside of the pipe. Contacting the DNR to determine a course of action is the next step in identifying if the roughness is caused by zebra mussels.

The ZMEWS is a 4 inch or larger high pressure PVC pipe strung with a rope or chain that hangs from a dock. The pipe should be placed about one foot from the bottom of the lake and be checked monthly. We have built and distributed several dozen, but have some left. If you want one, e-mail me at gflanger92@comcast.net.

Baby zebra mussels are called



veligers. They are only 100 micrometers (0.1mm) in diameter with a tiny shell and a curved sheet of skin covered with tiny hairs that beat in the water helping them swim and draw algae in for them to eat. Veligers can be transported in the "residual water" remaining inside boat compartments when boats are moved between lakes or in stowed bait. Veligers will attach to any hard surface including vegetation and surfaces on recreational boats, trailers, docks and lifts eventually encrusting boat motors and hulls. Zebra Mus-

sels greatly reduce lakefront property values, and their sharp shells cut swimmer's feet. Infested lakes will eventually become so short of zooplankton that fish will die off. Weeds will grow faster due to deeper-penetrating sunshine. Since zebra mussels only eat the good algae dangerous algae blooms will become a risk.

Take a stand. It is time to stop the spread of all aquatic invasive species. We deserve the pristine lakes we have come to enjoy and love. So do our future generations.

Man and Beavers Maintain Crooked Creek—to Different Standards!

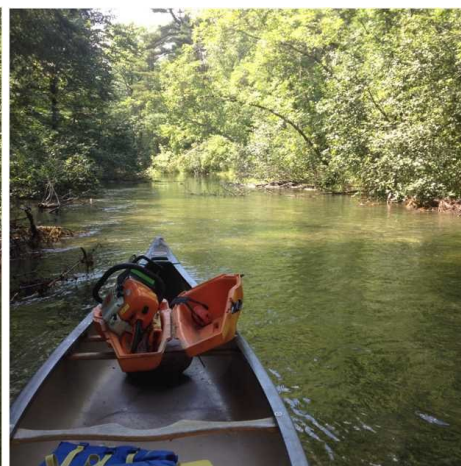
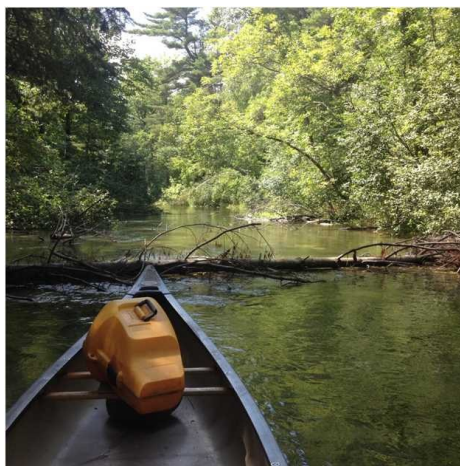


new dams at other points along the creek. This little guy looks sort of cute, but he wreaks a lot of havoc. Fortunately for all of us, one of our members, Nicolas David, has taken it upon himself to periodically tear down what this fellow and his friends and or relatives have built.

of before and after photos showing some of Nicolas' work this year.

Unfortunately, Nicolas reports that our furry little friend (and his friends and relatives no doubt) are back at work trying to rearrange the creek to their


I am sure that most of you know that the ultimate outflow for Leavitt, Lawrence and Roosevelt Lakes is Crooked Creek at the south end of Roosevelt Lake. This creek is the site of a fixed height concrete dam that regulates the level of water in Roosevelt (and thus the other lakes as well). However, over the years a very industrious group of *Castor Canadensis* (see photo above) have periodically attempted to change the height of the dam and/or build



While he is at it he also cuts up and drags out the trees and branches that simply fall into the creek. Above is a set

satisfaction.

It looks like Nicolas could have a permanent job up here, if he wanted one!



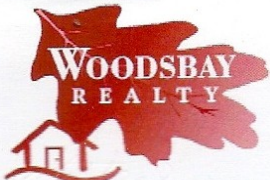
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Line 3 Replacement Pipeline—Not Really a Replacement by Mary Kowalski

Dialog concerning the Line 3 Replacement Pipeline was discussed at the "Love Our Waters" event on Sat August 5 in Luscher's Park in Outing. Discussion focused on the fact that the replacement is not a "replacement" but an entirely new corridor of pipelines seeking permitting to go a new route through the cleanest lakes in the state of MN.

Furthermore, this new corridor is not a "replacement", since the new pipeline will have larger pipes, and carry tar sands oil - which creates 20% more green house gas than conventional oil. And far worse for the waters of the area, tar sands oils have no proven way of clean up when it spills in water. (reference EPA and the Kalamazoo River - 2010 spill).

The current status of the permitting

process lies with the Department of Commerce's (DOC) Energy Environmental Review and Analysis. The DOC was ordered to prepare a combined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that addressed both the Certificate of Need (CN) and the routing permit dockets in accordance with Minnesota Administrative Rule Chapter 4410. This EIS is to evaluate impacts and alternatives for the CN Decision Using Applicable Criteria.

The MN Environmental Policy Act requires "Where there is potential to do significant environmental effects resulting from a major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement".

In this case, the governmental action includes two separate - but related - decisions by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission:

(A) Whether to issue a certificate of need; and

B) Whether to issue a route permit for the project, and if so, where, and, with what conditions.

The Environmental Impact Statement will present the case to the respective Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) who will recommend actions to the Public Utilities Commission.

The final draft of the EIS is scheduled to be released for public comment August 10. After that date the EIS will be open to testimony/comment by the citizens of the state. The meeting in the area is presently scheduled to be in Crosslake Oct. 25. Details will follow.



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OMG! Am I in a floodplain now?

Like me, you probably have been watching the TV coverage of the Houston area flooding from Harvey. Well, did you know that FEMA has recently issued a new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for this area that redefines what areas around our lakes are included in the floodplain?

If you own a cabin on low lying lake-shore, you probably want to check out whether your structure is now in the newly defined floodplain. There are two reasons. The first is that if you try to mortgage the property, try to sell the property to someone who is going to mortgage it, or have an existing mortgage that permits your lender to demand flood insurance in the event FEMA declares your property in the floodplain, you and/or your buyer are going to be faced with the prospect of getting flood insurance in addition to garden variety homeowners insurance. This is because all federally regulated lenders (the vast

majority) must require flood insurance if your cabin or lakehome is in the area where there is a 1% chance of flooding as defined by the FEMA ordinance. The second is that municipalities with property in the floodplains of waterbodies like our lakes, are essentially required to adopt zoning ordinances that regulate what can be built in the floodplain and severely limiting any expansion or change to any cabin or lakehome that

is already in the floodplain. Emily just adopted such an ordinance in August. I am sure Cass County will also (CLT does not regulate planning and zoning).

If you want to check the new maps, you can do so at the Emily City Clerk's Office. If you want more info call Darrin Welle at (218) 895-4142 or e-mail him at darrin.welle@NJPAcoop.org.



The winner of the July 4, 2017 Boat Parade Best Decorated Boat!

Amazon Prime Members Can Donate to RALALA with Every Purchase at Amazon

In case you didn't know, every purchase you make online at Amazon can result in a small donation to support the activities of Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA).

There is a program called "Amazon Smile" that will (at no cost to you) donate a portion of the amount of each purchase to the charity of your choice. Just go to smile.amazon.com to register for the program, and enter Roose-

velt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association as your choice of charity to support. Then continue with your order as usual. Just be sure that every time you start your order, you are logged in at smile.amazon.com. Amazon should actually alert you automatically, if you accidentally open a regular item order page instead of the Smile item order page. These are tiny contributions, but every little bit helps! Signup is very easy and using the system is very painless. When you visit your account page at Amazon it

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President's Letter cont'd from p. 1

Another long standing goal finally reached this summer was the establishment of the Aquatic Management Area in Woods Bay. This AMA was formally dedicated a few weeks ago at the Love Our Waters event in Outing. Below is a representation of a plaque that will be posted on the property:

As I have mentioned previously, we

have embarked on a new and more comprehensive water testing program with WAPOA in an effort to identify why the quality of water in our lakes is declining and what we can do about it. I will report on the first year results in our Fall newsletter. We are also looking at ways to better educate all of us on how to take care of our lakeshore. Look for more on this in the Fall newsletter.

nally, I want to briefly mention the research I have been doing on the possibility of moving the milfoil control effort to a lake improvement district (LID) so that all lakeshore property owners would be forced to contribute proportionately to the cost of control through an increase in their property taxes. I have determined that this is possible under Minnesota laws and regulations, but would require us to get the signatures of at least a majority and more likely 60% of the property owners in the proposed LID area on a written petition to Cass and Crow Wing Counties. This can be done even though Roosevelt straddles two counties, but would require the establishment of a joint commission. The task of creating this LID sounds very daunting to me, but I would like to explore it by meeting with relevant staff in both counties. I would welcome the help of those of you who have expressed an interest in this—perhaps by joining me in those preliminary meetings. Please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Fi-

Roosevelt Lake State Aquatic Management Area Judy and Charlie Eggers Tract

A cooperative project between
Outdoor Heritage Fund
The Eggers Family
Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association
Hugh Becker Trust
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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